

THE TIMES-DISPATCH

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Speaking of the Richmond and Chesapeake Bay Railway, we have heard the statement made that the section of country to be tapped by the road is the richest and most populous section in the United States without railroad facilities. We do not know that this statement is true, but it is anomalous that such a section as the Northern Neck should be without a railroad, and it goes without saying, that a railroad which starts in Richmond and terminates in the Northern Neck will bring to this city a vast deal of trade which has been going to the northern markets.

We have been talking about the advantage of such a road for many years, and it seems almost too good to be true that we are at last going to have it. Congratulations all round are in order.

The Poor Man and the Ballot.

It was mentioned in our political gossip the other day that a voter in Henrico county had said that he and many others similarly situated, being qualified, had refused to vote because they were dissatisfied with the dog law. The story is amusing, yet it has its serious side. It is remarkable to us that any qualified voter, least of all a poor man, should decline to vote because he chances to be dissatisfied with any statutory act or any political situation. The sensible thing for dissatisfied voters to do is to take their grievances to the ballot box, for that is the only way they can change an unsatisfactory situation. They can certainly accomplish nothing good for themselves by the let-alone policy.

The story also serves to show that such men have an idea that they are spitting the State, or spitting some political party, or spitting the powers that be by not voting. The fact is that they are spitting themselves when they fail to exercise the privileges of citizenship. Under our system one vote counts as much as another vote, and one voter has the same power in an election that another voter has. It is the election that puts rich and poor, strong and weak, upon the same footing. It is an election that gives the poor and the weak the means of competing with the rich and the strong, of asserting and protecting their own rights and promoting their own welfare. If poor men were not permitted to vote there would be a great outcry against the usurpation and oppression of the rich, yet, strangely enough, many of them who have grievances decline to employ the remedy which the State gives them. The ballot is the only weapon a poor man has. It is like a gun in the hands of a soldier.

The People and the Bosses.

The people have put the political bosses out of business for the time being, but whose fault was it that the bosses ever got into power? The fault of the people. Bosses, like weeds, are propagated by neglect. The farmer does not have to cultivate his field in order to produce a crop of weeds. All that is necessary is for him to neglect the field, and the weeds will grow of themselves. The people neglect politics, and political bosses grow up and wax fat.

When the people discover that they are boss-ridden, they rise up in their indignation and strike the bosses down. That is well, but it would be far better if they were careful in the first instance to prevent the bosses from getting into power. The bosses in several States were re-elected by the election of Tuesday, but the probability is that the voters will now conclude that the job is finished; there is nothing else for them to do. But if they lapse back into their former condition of apathy and neglect, the bosses will spring up again, just as the weeds will spring up in the farmers' field, although he may have cut them down for once. It is a matter of constant attention; it is a matter of eternal vigilance to keep the bosses out of business. Popular apathy is the boss's opportunity, and he does not usually neglect it.

Atlanta business men have met and decided to hold a great exposition in 1910, to advertise the resources and industrial growth of the South and incidentally the city of Atlanta. It is proposed that the exposition shall cost \$1,000,000 and far surpass anything of the sort ever held in the South. The Atlanta Exposition of 1895 brought some 500,000 visitors to the city, and the editor of the Atlanta Journal, James R. Gray, who is taking a prominent part in the movement, sees no reason why the fair of 1910 should not bring 2,000,000. An effort is now under way to organize the financing of the undertaking by an immediate subscription of \$500,000 in \$2.50 lots. In a leading editorial, the Journal calls on Atlanta to show their enterprise by subscribing this tidy sum within the week.

Let us state fairly that a State fair must be a splendid and stately affair in order to be fair to the State. (Contributions solicited to above continuous pun.)

That the doing of a simple routine duty is likely to result in a sudden and violent death is a proposition which our Naval Academy appears to be doing its best to impress upon American youth.

Blood is doubtless thicker than water, but none the less Russian blood shows in a marked degree the capacity for "howling in rivers."

Meanwhile, it is to be noted that Europe is proving interesting enough to hold the entire attention of Judge Andrew Hamilton.

That ballot-box-in-the-river episode naturally leads to the conclusion that somebody was trying to drown the Heavly vote.

The only parties discernible through the country are the party for bossism and the party against it.

Mr. Rhoads declares that the Big Ditch will be built, but neglects to mention when.

Few Russians ever die of either boredom or old age.

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